

South African Libraries

W/SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

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Driemaandeliks uitgegee deur die
SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEEKVERENIGING
Geredigeer vanuit die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, Kaapstad

Deel 24

Julie 1956

No. 1

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SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

Die Offisiële Orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging

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No. 1

ONS GEREEDSKAP EN ONS VERVLAKKING

DIKWELS HOOR 'n mens vandag klagtes dat daar met reparasies aan motorkarre geffous word of dat elektrisiëns onbevredigende werk doen, maar ten duurste laat betaal. Die veronderstelling is dat 'n mens die reg het om van sulke vaklui te verwag dat hulle kennis sal hê van die motorkar se enjin of van 'n elektriese apparaat wat nie wil werk nie. Ons betaal vir hul werk en daarom voel ons geregtig daarop dat sulke werkmense die gereedskap van hul vak sal kan hanteer en deeglike werk sal doen. Wat sou ons nie alles te sê hê oor 'n timmerman wat nie behendig 'n saag en 'n beitel kan hanteer nie? Maar as ons van die vakman verwag dat hy met sy werktuie behoorlik vertrou moet wees, geld dieselfde nie ook vir die bibliotekaris nie?

Het gebruikers van biblioteke nie die reg om dieselfde van bibliotekarisse te verwag nie? Dit wil sê dat hulle die gereedskap van hul beroep behoorlik ken en kan hanteer? Boeke is en bly die vernaamste „handelsartikel” van biblioteke. Nou kom die vraag onwillekeurig vandag by 'n mens op: is ons bibliotekarisse werklik met boeke vertrou, weet ons iets van die inhoud van boeke af? Kan ons inligting deur middel van boeke vind? Soms wonder 'n mens self of bibliotekarisse hoegenaamd in boeke belangstel of ooit 'n boek self lees.

'n Halfeeu gelede of nog vroeër was 'n bibliotekaris altoos 'n „boekman”, 'n deskundige op die gebied van boeke. Vandag is soveel bibliotekarisse daarop uit om deskundiges te wees op die gebied van administrasie en tegniek, dat dit voorkom asof die hoofdoel vir die bestaan van biblioteke dikwels uit die oog verloor word. Onlangs het ek weer leke uit verkillende dele van ons land ernstige aantygings teen ons huidige biblioteke hoor maak. Toe kom die vraag by my op: is daar nie dalk gegronde redes vir hul klagtes nie?

Verskaf ons slegs die allerbeste boeke wat uitgegee word of koop ons enige boeke wat boekhandelaars aan ons lewer? Beoefen ons as bibliotekarisse werklik die moeilike kuns van boekkeuring? Waarom kla so baie mense in soveel dele van ons land dat meer en meer prul op biblioteekrakke gevind word en minder en minder van die belangrikste boeke van die afgelope halfeeu? Moet ons nie die hand in eie boesem steek en onself 'n keer krities ondersoek nie? Moet ons nie dalk ons koppe uit skaamtegevoel laat sak en erken dat die skuld by onself lê nie? Word ons nie oppervlakkige tegnici, sonder 'n sweem van ware professionele kennis nie?

Ons biblioteke brei uit, ons biblioteekstelsels word groter en ons personele omvat meer en meer persone. Maar kan ons nou eerlik sê dat ons biblioteke altoos kwaliteit bo kwantiteit verkies? Is dit nou werklik 'n saak van landsbelang of nog 'n honderd mense vir

Tarzan in Afrikaans gelees het? Probeer ons werklik 'n bydrae tot die kulturele vooruitgang van die land lewer of is ons doel slegs om mense uit die strate te lok met die heel ligste leesstof? 'n Opgevoede boer het onlangs vir my gesê dat hy weier om biblioteke te gebruik. Toe ek hom om redes vra, sê hy dat hy nie die geduld het om romannetjies te lees nie. Ek maak hom toe daarop attent dat biblioteke darem ook boeke het wat inligting verskaf, vakboeke, ens. Daardie soort boeke sou hom interesseer, maar blykbaar het hy nog nooit sulke boeke in 'n biblioteek aangetref nie. Lê ons te veel nadruk op ligte leesstof, op boeke as tydverdryf, en verwaarloos ons ons plig om meer vakboeke,

om meer boeke van kwaliteit en meer boeke vir inligting te verskaf?

Het ons enige norme vir boekkeuring? Beoefen ons werklik boekkeuring? Probeer ons onself opvoed as boekkeners? Strewe ons na kwaliteit op ons rakke of is ons tevrede met kwantiteit? Is ontwikkeling – soos in die afgelope vyf of ag jaar hier by ons op biblioteekgebied – noodwendig vooruitgang? Hierdie vrae verdien ernstige oorweging op hierdie tydstip van ons biblioteekontwikkeling of toekomstige geslagte gaan ons geslag verwyrt vir ons kortsigtigheid.

R. F. M. I.

NOTES ON OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. D. A. Clarke, appointed Librarian of the new University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland at Salisbury in 1955, was educated at Oxford University (classical scholar at Oriël College), qualified at the London School of Librarianship, and gained his library experience at the Department of Printed Books, British Museum (1947-53) and as Deputy Librarian of the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds (1953-55). He was a Fulbright Fellow, 1950-51, and has contributed to *The Library* and other bibliographical journals.

***Mnr. D. L. Ehlers**, Onderbibliotekaris, Parlementsbiblioteek, Kaapstad, is in die Kaap gebore. Hy het die B.A.-graad aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch behaal, en het daarna aan die Skool vir Biblioteekwese, Universiteit Kaapstad, gestudeer. Hy het ervaring aan die Universiteite van Stellenbosch en O.V.S. en die Transvaalse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens opgedoen, en van 1948 tot 1955 het hy as Assistent-organiseerder, Kaaplandse Provinsiale Biblioteekdienste, gedien. Vanaf 1951 het hy as Assistent-redakteur van *S.A. Biblioteke* opgetree.

***Mr. Bryan G. Hood**, was born at Oamaru, New Zealand, and after graduating in arts at

the University of Otago, joined the Fleet Air Arm as a pilot. After the War he returned to New Zealand, qualified in librarianship, and was appointed reference librarian and later deputy city librarian at the Wellington Public Library, with the special duty of organizing the change-over to a free library scheme. In 1952 Mr. Hood was appointed to the new post of Library development officer for the City of Cape Town, and shortly afterwards as City Librarian, responsible for re-organizing and developing the existing public library services into a Peninsula-wide free municipal library system. His work has met with notable success, and is described in *S.A.L.*, 23 (2), 32-40, October 1955.

Mnr. R. F. M. Immelman, Bibliotekaris van die Universiteit van Kaapstad vanaf 1940, en stigter en tans Direkteur van die Skool vir Biblioteekwese, U.K., is in Somerset-wes, Kaap, gebore. Hy het die graad van M.A. aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad en later sy B.L.S. aan die Columbia University School of Librarianship behaal. Hy was President van die S.A. Biblioteekvereniging, 1951-52, en het 'n belangrike rol in die ontwikkeling van biblioteke en biblioteekwese in Suid-Afrika gespeel. Vollediger besonderhede van mnr. Immelman se loopbaan is in *World Biography* te vinde.

* Can be identified in the Conference group photograph appearing as the frontispiece to the January, 1956, number of *South African Libraries*.

THE FUTURE OF THE BOOK IN SOUTH AFRICA - AND ELSEWHERE

by

D. H. VARLEY

Chief Librarian, South African Library, Cape Town

TEN YEARS AGO - on 25th April, 1946, to be precise - Mr. Percy Freer addressed the Conference of the S. A. Library Association on the subject of "Libraries and the changing aids to research". Those who heard this address will perhaps, in retrospect, remember best the speaker's vivid prognostications on the Research Library of the Future: "the *Impressorum*, or Place of the Printed Books; the *Biblioteek*, containing reference books and other printed works in constant demand, reduced to a standard size by "offset"; the *Kartoteek*, or Card Repository, consisting of cabinets of microcards representing the general research library, surrounded by benches carrying hundreds of reading machines, eventually increasing to a degree where the area per reader, plus machine, may exceed that previously necessary to contain the original printed volumes"; and finally, the *Kinograaf-teek* or Film Repository - "a lodging wherein to tarry but not to dwell", with a stock consisting entirely of 70 mm. microfilms of the items represented above, including all unpublished material, operated by librarians "resembling sweet-voiced troglodytes, fitted with miner's lamps where Cyclops had their eyes". It is a measure of the astonishing development of what is now generally understood by the term "documentation" that this delightful Wellsian fantasy of 1946 has in some material respects already come to pass.

Nevertheless, the librarian of 1956 who deduces from the extracts just quoted that their author is (or was) a rearguard conser-

vative, fighting change with all the impedimenta of a diehard bibliophile, should turn to the address itself.¹ He will find there that the fantasy in question was merely the peroration of a closely-reasoned, fully-documented account of the aids to research which at that time were comparatively untried in South Africa, or, for that matter, anywhere else.

In this article of Mr. Freer's - a landmark in our professional literature - the uses and advantages, and limitations and disadvantages, of microfilm, photoprints, micro-cards and the like were discussed with authority and sobriety. Finally, while admitting their virtues in a given set of circumstances, Mr. Freer found himself in agreement with Keyes D. Metcalf, who in 1945 had percipiently stated that "in the years immediately ahead, the greatest development in microprinting is . . . likely to be with photo-offset reproductions reduced by two to five diameters, which will be sold at a fraction of the cost of the original volume, and which can be read without the aid of an expensive, not easily portable machine".²

* * *

All this was ten years ago, when the leaders of the profession were waving a cautionary red flag³ and warning against investment in equipment that was not yet standardized, and techniques whose best uses were not yet understood. In the intervening years the literature of documentation has swelled to a flood⁴ in which the unsuspecting librarian is

¹ Printed in *S.A. Libraries*, 14(2), 40-45, October 1946, a special micro-film number. Re-reading Mr. Freer's article one is given a salutary reminder of the extent to which every librarian must keep *au fait* with the professional literature. With respect, of how many of our 1956 South African librarians can it be said that they are doing so?

² Metcalf, K. D. "Implications of microfilm and microprint for libraries" (*Libr. J.* 70(15), 718-23,

1 Sept. 1945).

³ Even this phrase, one reflects ruefully, has other implications to the politically-conditioned library generation of to-day.

⁴ Two journals have been established, both well supported, which are devoted to little else but the reviewing of articles on documentation: *American Documentation* and the *Review of Documentation*, while a third, of equally high quality, is concerned

apt to play the part of Alice.¹ Equipment for photographic reproduction, microfilm, micro-cards, microfiches, reading machines, tele-facsimile apparatus, electronic devices of all kinds, have become the stock-in-trade of any librarian who wishes to regard himself (like Alice) "in the swim"; and even in the non-research aspects of librarianship, if they may be so called, the novitiate who neglects the attractive new world of "audio-visual techniques"² does so at his peril – and, alas, too often at the cost of a basic equipment in knowledge about knowledge – the real content of any "liberal arts" worthy of the name.

At this stage in the history of library thinking, therefore, there is something to be said for compiling a sober balance-sheet. Let us acknowledge, on the one hand, that the "new" techniques (some of them very old ones revived) have come to stay; and on the other, that they are not the cure-alls they may have seemed in the early days – the answer to all problems of accommodation, rapid communication, "automation" and plain and ordinary shortage of staff. Ten years in a technocratically competitive world is a long time, and by now it should be possible to discern what is basic in these matters, and what is not.

A consideration of some of these problems, arising not from the needs and interests of research libraries only, but also from libraries in general, formed the substance of the twentieth annual conference held at the Graduate Library School in Chicago in 1955. The contributions to that symposium are recorded in language for the most part impeccably free from the blight of library jargon, in the October, 1955, number of the *Library Quarterly*, a journal which most librarians to-day regard as one of the best of its kind. The primary purpose of the present article is not to reproduce all the arguments and counter-arguments wielded at the Chicago Conference, – they fill 104 pages of double-column print – but to draw the attention of South African colleagues to the discussion, and to certain firm conclusions arising from it, and even to provoke further discussion and argu-

ment in South Africa. The secondary purpose is to attempt some assessment of the conclusions as they apply to the local scene.

* * *

In an introductory chapter Dr. Lester Asheim poses some of the problems. He reminds us that "the growth and development of civilizations have depended, to a very large extent, upon man's progress in his ability to receive, record and communicate his knowledge. Any improvements or alterations in man's patterns of communication can have important effects upon society and its institutions, and if an institution is an agency primarily concerned with communication – as the library is – these effects can be revolutionary."

He goes on to say that while some of these developments in communication are not directly related to the library – and inventions such as "computing machines, telecommunication and automatic factories" may seem to be far removed from the daily activities taking place in the library building, they are nevertheless of considerable significance to the librarian. Indifference to them among librarians may be due to two understandable but undesirable factors "which have always blocked understanding of innovation and change: a sentimental devotion to a vested interest, and narrow compartmentation of attention". "The library of to-day is still essentially a book agency, and our training, practice and outlook are book-oriented. The library of the future may or may not be primarily a book agency. If it is not, those of us who limit our attention to the book may find our libraries if not completely discarded, at least relegated to a position of considerably reduced importance and vitality. On the other hand, if the library of the future should continue to be a book agency, it will be an effective one not through our blindly devoting ourselves to the service of books in and for themselves, but because as librarians we will³ have analyzed and understood the unique role of the book

with serious contributions to the subject: the *Journal of Documentation*.

¹ See Carroll, Lewis, *pseud. Alice in Wonderland* Chapter II.

² Confessing to a radical dislike of the unbecomingly beautiful expression "audio-visual" the present writer on

one occasion invented (on the analogy of the "walkie-talkie") the term "hearie-peerie", which has at least the virtue of alliteration and self-explanation; but it looks as though the briefer but more euphonious "Ay-Vee" will carry the day.

³ shall?

which justifies it to serve new and developing needs."

Asheim goes on to urge an objective approach to these questions: fears on the part of the "defenders of the book" must be rationalized; "in reality the printed book seems already to have been partially replaced" – in scholarly works, certainly, and in popular works, where inventions such as the moving picture, radio and television "definitely supplant the book instead of merely altering its external form" these non-book devices, when they vie with the book¹ for attention at an identical time, are likely to win. "That means that not only the book, but also the reading act itself is being replaced as a means of communication."

* * *

In the papers that follow a variety of approaches are represented. In a useful historical survey, Howard W. Winger points out that the book originated and survived as a functional tool of communication, subject to changing forms (of which the present codex is by no means sacrosanct), to meet changing needs; that it owes its survival mainly to its quality of permanence, and that any new forms or devices might be those "which would facilitate our reaching the content² rather than those which would replace the book".

The contribution entitled "Developments in variant forms of the book", by Thompson Webb Jr. of the University of Wisconsin Press, is one of the most practical non-technical accounts of the existing position known to the present writer. Starting from the assertion "that the book is here to stay", Webb predicts that on economic grounds alone "the book for the mass market will continue indefinitely to look like the book we know"; but that "the [still] comparatively small proportion of the [American] population who have the inclination to read serious books, who have a respect for the written word, and who consider what is written rather important", including scholars, librarians and "that mythical creature, the General Reader", are "likely

¹ The term "book" is used in this article (as in Ralph Shaw's, referred to *infra*) "in a generic sense, to cover all types of material normally used in conveying information normally stored and serviced by libraries, including hard covers, soft covers, periodicals, pamphlets, reports, [and] broadsides." Shaw adds "films, and recordings of various types, etc.,"

to be affected by the changes that are taking place in the processes of reproducing written matter". These changes are determined for the most part by the sheer logic of economics. If it were possible to produce a small edition in orthodox print at an economic rate, most people including the printer would prefer this method to any other; but no way of doing this has yet been found. It might be thought that the invention of photo-composition ("the first major revolution [in printing] since Gutenberg") was an answer to this problem, but Webb believes that its effect on book-printing and -handling will be very small. Photo-composition cheapens the cost of reproducing illustrations, and increases the diversity of type at the disposal of the individual printer, but so far as can be predicted at present it does not cheapen the economic process of printing a book.

For the research worker, the scholar-writer, the "small-edition" man, the solution, in Webb's view, is already with us; microfilm for the edition of one copy; microcards, microprint, microlex, for the edition of a minimum of ten or fifteen copies; and the various products of the offset press (no new invention this – it is at least 75 years old) for editions of, say, up to 2,500 copies; after that, orthodox print. Readers of the article by Freer quoted earlier, will realize that all this is merely an elaboration of what our South African colleague recorded and foresaw in 1946.

Webb believes that the Verityper, in view of its initial expense and cost of operation, is no practical answer to the problem of the small edition; but that in Near-print methods (using some form of typewriter composition and the offset press), once they have been accepted by a conservative specialized public, lies the answer to some at least of our difficulties. "The specialist who shakes his head and says that really worth-while books cannot find publishers any more will sooner or later have to realize that the typewriter and microphotography have changed the form of the book."³

* * *

(op. cit., p. 344); these are certainly an increasingly common type of library material, but their inclusion in the definition of a "book" may (in the present context) seem to be begging the question.

² Our italics.

³ op. cit., p. 318.

The next contribution¹ is concerned chiefly with a problem peculiar (so far) to America, and in a lesser degree, to Great Britain: the challenge presented by television. It says nothing very new, but in view of certain tendencies observed not a thousand miles from Table Mountain, the following observation has point: "Some people have suggested that films and television may replace books to a considerable degree in our schools and colleges. It seems to me that this suggestion is dangerously unsound and would vitiate some of the principal purposes of education. For several years during the war I served on a training staff in the Navy. The efficiency, economy and effectiveness of the wide use of training films were proved. Films are better than books in training farmers to be sailors. But the essential point here is that training is not the same thing as education. Cultivation of those arts involved in critical and reflective reading is the birthright of every free man. And the *Bluejackets' Manual* is not a great book".²

For those whose minds are attuned to the theories underlying communication technics, papers by Harold Fleischer on "An introduction to the theory of information"³ and by C. D. Gull on "Implications for the storage and retrieval of knowledge"⁴ may provide enlightenment and perhaps a new approach to a highly specialized subject. Of greater interest to the general reader however will be the remarks by Ralph R. Shaw on "Implications for library services" (of technical devices), all the more so for their being the thoughts and afterthoughts of one of the pioneers of these selfsame devices, and the progenitor of the photocharger, the photoclerk and the rapid selector.

In 1948 the present writer was privileged to be present in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress on the occasion of the first demonstration of the device known as Ultrafax, when the whole of the novel "Gone with the Wind"⁵ was transmitted from a

point some miles from the capital city, and received in a matter of seconds in the presence of a partly sceptical and partly reverent audience of several hundreds. Of this invention and occasion Ralph Shaw says: "In this area, even in terms of spread of service and not counting service costs, it would appear that if transmission time is to compete with sending a messenger for the book, transmission on an intermittent basis would have to supply a copy of the book in less than an hour. But we have heard that "Gone with the Wind" was transmitted in *seconds*, so why the to-do about an hour limit? It was *transmitted* in seconds. But ... before the transmission could be started, the book had to be converted to microfilm", which would normally take over half a day. Then after the film is transmitted in sections the film copy has to be developed on the receiving end. "Assuming hot processing ... another quarter-hour for developing would be required before any readable copy is ready. A slow messenger could have hobbled from the hotel from which the transmission was made, to the Coolidge Auditorium, where the reception took place, stopping for a game of tiddly-winks, and still have delivered the book in half the total elapsed time or less."⁶

It is one of the most endearing qualities of the best American library minds that they are able to penetrate professional "ballyhoo" with the brilliance of the noon-day sun dispersing the morning mists; and Shaw is no exception when he summarizes his conclusions on the impact of mechanization on the Library as follows:

"1. By and large, library services are related to a mode of use which is relatively leisurely and contemplative as compared with the comparatively frenetic requirements of switching gear, computations, mass communications, and so-called "documentation problems". With this in mind ... it does not appear likely that the types of use made of most libraries would gain much by large-scale mechanization of services or that

was chosen with rather more sense of occasion, consisting of passages from the Scriptures. Will GWTW be remembered by future generations, chiefly as a characteristic of twentieth-century American technology - in this case, quality sacrificed in the name of size?

⁶ op. cit., 349.

¹ Wittcoff, Raymond H. "Developments in mass communication", op. cit., pp. 319-325.

² op. cit., p. 324.

³ op. cit., pp. 326-32.

⁴ op. cit., pp. 333-43.

⁵ It was remarked at the time that on a comparable occasion in the previous century, the inauguration of the first telegraph, the material for relaying

mechanization of services would do much to facilitate the predominating types of use.

2. Library services, as distinguished from mass communications and the so-called "documentation" services do not lend themselves to standardization, are not adequately repetitive for automation, and are not likely to exist in sufficient volume in the generality of libraries for the machine to serve as more than a minor aid for the next generation at least.

3. There appears to be no probability that any of the mechanical or electronic devices available or in sight will replace the book as a means for storing, retrieving, and presenting the types of materials normally stored and serviced by libraries.

4. Some of the new devices offer limited promise in the field of routines and techniques in the larger libraries, but only the simplest and least costly of these appear to have offered any promise of general applicability in libraries.¹

To Shaw's way of thinking the library's greatest contribution (again, with American conditions predominantly in mind) "will be in facilitating and speeding up the re-education of millions of people into the intellectual pursuits that they will have to follow to make automation possible [feasible? tolerable?]"

* * *

Mr. Verner W. Clapp, a South African by birth and an American by naturalization, is principally concerned with the possible application of new devices to solve problems of locating and organizing knowledge. In this connection he remarks that every librarian could, if he had the opportunity, submit a "pretty tidy budget for immediate improvements in accessibility, organization and retrieval, based on techniques, from additional cataloguers to a telefacsimile installation"; but the fact remains "that we have not availed ourselves fully of the facilities which the older techniques have afforded".² At some time in the future the librarian may become the controller of documentation centres commanding access to the entire record instead of to mere fragments, as at present; but that day has not yet arrived.

¹ op. cit., p. 354.

² op. cit., p. 361.

³ op. cit., pp. 363-75.

Two more papers complete the symposium; we have no space to discuss or even summarize them here without doing an injustice to the arguments their authors advance and develop. Suffice it to say that Lowell A. Martin in his "Implications for the education of librarians"³ pleads for the encouragement of *judgment* as a supreme and indispensable element in formative librarianship; while Reuel N. Denney, in a stimulating contribution with a formidable title,⁴ points out that in a country like India, "the second largest producer of movies in the world", where many people "still feel and think in terms of a mythological tradition that arose in the pre-scientific era", it is even now possible to transform the materials of an oral tradition into the materials of a cinema tradition "without book or periodical format lying between the two" - an observation with far-reaching implications. Of the American scene he also notes that "there is a general prejudice [sic] to be worried ... about the fate of print [as compared with other means of communication], with the assumption that exposure to print may save people - especially young people - from the supposed bad effects of the other media". This anxiety has sometimes reached the point where it is used as justification for curbing "the reading liberties of the American child". "Investigations have shown that many more than 50 per cent of the older people in the United States are willing to support a variety of limitations on civil and academic liberties of speech and of the press. At the same time, from other research, we know that older people read less than all others in the population, while 45 per cent of all others, during an entire year, read not a single book. Anxiety about "mal-uses" of print seems to be associated with personal distance from any intensive use of it." A palpable hit!

* * *

What does all this amount to? In a short summing-up Lester Asheim concludes, firstly, that while there is nothing sacrosanct about the *form* of the book, there is indeed something sacred and enduring about the book

⁴ "The cultural context of print in the communications revolution", op. cit., pp. 376-83.

itself, and that is its content, "the record of man's unending quest for knowledge and truth". No question arises about the importance of the *function* of the book; only whether new and better means can be found for performing that function. Secondly, such means and devices must be judged not by their novelty as gadgets, but by the extent to which they add to and enhance that function. "There are now, and there will be in the future, many rivals for the reader's attention and many new channels for the dissemination of facts, knowledge and ideas. But . . . if we take as our basis for judgment the efficiency with which the book performs the task it is designed to serve, we need have no fears concerning its future."¹

* * *

So much for the symposium, which should be read and reflected on by all librarians concerned with the future of their craft. It deals in the main with conditions and circumstances in a highly-industrialized, increasingly standardized community in which the more reflective elements are at present preoccupied with the impact of television, and with the even more significant oncoming of mechanization in daily life, with all the factors implied by the term "automation". To what extent are these problems actual in South Africa, where television has not yet arrived (though it is doubtless round the corner), where we are, it is true, newly industrialized, but on a far smaller scale than the Americas; and where "automation" is still only a brave new word? What is the future of the book in our still isolated yet dependent heterogeneous community, dependent that is on the spiritual and intellectual, as well as the material exports of the outside world?

These questions can be answered, or at least, answers attempted, at two levels: the level of research facilities, and the perhaps more "socially significant" level of the book

considered as a popular medium of communication.

* * *

The first of these is the more readily dealt with. As the present writer pointed out ten years ago in the special microfilm number of *South African Libraries* already referred to, microfilm and its related techniques seemed likely to have two main uses in South Africa, so far as research facilities were concerned: firstly, "to fill the hundred thousand gaps in our library resources with information that is up-to-date, easily displayed, and conveniently and economically stored when finished with"; and secondly, "to conserve and diffuse material that is already in this country: material of vast human and historical interest which is either physically decaying, or cannot be easily consulted in this land of great distances".²

By and large these have in fact proved to be the main uses of these new devices. There is scarcely a university, special or research library of any size in the country that is not equipped with, or has not ready access to, facilities for making and reading microfilm.³ The Library and Information Division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Pretoria, and possibly one or two other centres, are in addition equipped with facilities for handling microcard and microfiches. For the filling of gaps in book-stocks, microfilm has been widely if not systematically employed.⁴ Thus the University of Witwatersrand Library reports having set aside a special fund for the purchase of material in this medium and the South African Library in Cape Town is constantly acquiring items on microfilm for its Special Collections.⁵

Similarly, the use of microfilm as a ready means of "inter-library loans" has increased phenomenally during the past ten years. Thus the Librarian of the University of Cape Town records that during 1955 no fewer than 1,845 photo-copies were made and 18,957 frames of microfilm taken for

retrieval of book resources, the acquisition of microfilm has unfortunately tended to be haphazard and determined by short-term and localized, rather than long-term and broader considerations.

⁵ A recent example is the acquisition on microfilm of a large number of items relating to Africa in the Sir Joseph Banks papers housed in the Sutor Branch of the California State Library.

¹ op. cit., pp. 384-85.

² *South African Libraries*, 14(2), 33, Oct. 1946.

³ Spohr, O. H. *Photographic service points in libraries, archives and museums in South Africa*. University of Cape Town Libraries, 1949. A new edition is in preparation.

⁴ In default of any South African "Farmington Plan" or really adequate machinery either for consultative bookbuying or for the location and

purposes of inter-library loan, apart from a large amount of material on film received from other libraries.

From yet another point of view, microfilm has been used for the conservation and diffusion of resources. Thus ten of the major newspapers published in the Cape during the nineteenth century – invaluable and irreplaceable sources of historical research – have been microfilmed at the South African Library, the master negative being preserved in the archives of the Film Division of the Union Department of Education, Arts and Science in Pretoria; while other newspapers have been microfilmed commercially. Important manuscript sources have similarly been placed on microfilm, notable instances being the J. X. Merriman Papers in the South African Library and the large and important Smuts Archive which has been built up during the past three years at the University of Cape Town Libraries.

Apart from these comparatively straightforward applications of these new devices there have been some experiments with Near-print for publication purposes: e.g., Freer's *Bibliography and modern book production* (Witwatersrand University press, 1954) and his *Catalogue of Union periodicals*, both produced by the Replika process (although not actually printed in South Africa); the *Willem Hiddingh series* of Africana reprints, sponsored jointly by the University of Cape Town and the South African Library, and produced in Cape Town by the Diazo-process; and the most recent of the *Grey bibliographies* published by the latter library, reproduced by offset process in the Photographic Department of the University of Cape Town.¹ Progress so far achieved in South Africa with the use of photographic methods of reproduction has owed much to the pioneer work of Dr. Herbert Coblans, formerly Librarian of the University of Natal, and Dr. O. H. Spohr, of the University of Cape Town Libraries; the latter's current notes on documentation have for some time past constituted a special feature of the professional journal, *South African Libraries*.

¹ *A bibliography of African bibliographies south of Sahara*. Cape Town, South African Library, 1955. (Grey bibliographies no. 6.) Mr. R. F. M. Immelman's *University of Cape Town Libraries 1829-1955*, another home product, was produced by the same process.

² "Some proposals for the development of

It must be admitted, however, that full use has not yet been made of the resources of the "new devices" in South Africa. For the time being the traditional conservatism of Government Departments has prevented the establishment either of a central repository for University theses on microfilm, as advocated by Dr. Spohr in 1954,² or of the production of a current national bibliography similar to *Canadiana*, as advocated by the present writer on the same occasion.³ Nevertheless it can already be said with fair certainty that the estimate of Ralph Shaw of the uses of the "new devices", as applied to the American library scene, can also be applied to South Africa. Our population is too small and dispersed to justify the use of any of the more elaborate devices. We may profitably use a minor device such as the photo-clerk for the compilation of union catalogues, and in a large and highly-centralized organization such as the Provincial Service now being built up in the relatively enormous area of the Cape Province, the employment of punched-card techniques for library routine processes is being given serious consideration. Beyond this we are unlikely to go at present.

* * *

When we turn to the larger issues, however – the future of the book as a popular medium of communication in South Africa – the problem takes on a greater urgency.

In the first place, it must not be assumed that the book is even now a familiar or established medium of communication in South Africa. Although there have been individual book collectors and readers from the earliest days of European settlement,⁴ and libraries – and even public libraries – can show a continuous history of nearly two hundred years, a long time for a country such as South Africa, yet the number of South Africans affected by books at any one time has until recently been a small proportion of the whole. Moreover, taking the population as a whole, the means to read on the one hand, and the incentives on the other, have been comparatively lacking.

national bibliographical services for South Africa "(S. A. L., 22(3), 79-88, Jan. 1955).

³ *ibid.*

⁴ cp. Immelman, R. F. M. "Kaapse bibliofiele en hulle boeke in die 18e eeu" (S. A. L., 19(4) 87-98, April 1952).

Unlike England or America, therefore, the book in South Africa, although respected by the knowledgeable, does not to the same extent represent "the record of man's unending quest for knowledge and truth".

There are indeed a number of difficulties arising from the nature and disposition of the existing population.¹ It has been maintained with some justification that even today South Africa is a land of "displaced people" – with all the problems of adjustment that arise. The people "displaced" – by economic or other circumstances – include not only the Africans, whose trek to the towns and cities has been the most striking phenomenon of the past thirty years, but also the Afrikaans-speaking country-dwellers, whose numbers have been swelling the urban census figures for the same period of time. Both sections have uprooted themselves; neither is yet adapted to the new environment. To these one can add a third "displaced" element – the immigrants from Europe and elsewhere who are also struggling to adjust themselves to a new way of life. To what extent has the book a meaning or future for them?

Two factors in particular govern the painful process of adjustment to a "book-oriented" world. The first is that of language. Neither in Afrikaans nor in the vernacular languages spoken by the Bantu are there enough books of substance and quality to meet the needs of the new "reading public", nor are the economics of publication in South Africa, with its high labour costs, likely to make the solution of this problem any easier. The Afrikaans-speaking reader who comes to the end of the available resources in his own language can either stop reading altogether, or content himself with the magazine and newspaper press, or he can turn to books in English – which is, in effect, what is already happening in many parts of the country.²

For the Bantu, however, no such solution is available; and in these circumstances there

may be a strong temptation to emulate the processes now being carried out in India where (as pointed out by Reuel N. Denney in a passage quoted earlier in this article) "the materials of an oral tradition" are being transformed into the materials of a cinema tradition "without book or periodical format lying between the two".³ While the use of film as an aid to reading and learning is generally accepted among most so-called "backward peoples", there is, in the writer's opinion, a real danger that in the process of "jumping a stage" the aid may become the staple fare, and a lasting disservice may be done to the people most concerned. This is a large and controversial question, for which there is no further space for consideration in the present article.

* * *

There is however another aspect of the problem that urgently requires serious thought on the part of South African librarians. Mention has already been made of the "displaced" Europeans in South Africa. Not only has the new town-dweller the problem of adjustment to an unfamiliar way of life; there is the further consideration that, in a sense, the after-effects of "automation" are already with us. In our stratified society the comparative leisure offered by the processes of automation in highly industrialized countries already exists in South Africa, through the presence of an unskilled and in some cases semi-skilled non-European labour force. What use is made of the undoubtedly privileged position of the European in this regard? To what extent, for instance, is the book (in the wide sense) taken advantage of as a means to creative activity (surely the mainspring of human happiness) or cultural self-development?

The answer is, of course, shockingly little. The concern of church and welfare organizations and of cultural bodies of all

¹ More than one School of Librarianship in South Africa includes a course on the place of the library in modern society (in general sociological terms), but the writer knows of no general published study on the place of the library and the book in South African society, with its many stresses and strains: surely a fascinating and fruitful subject for true research. Some interesting data concerning the resources and use of public libraries in South Africa have been assembled by Mr. T. Friis, and

formed the basis of his paper *Waardebepaling van die openbare biblioteekdienste in Suid-Afrika*, read at the Port Elizabeth Conference of the S.A. Library Association on 20th September, 1955. This was, however, only a preliminary study of one part of the subject indicated in the title of the paper.

² See the remarks of D. L. Ehlers in "Provinsiale biblioteekdienste, 1954" (*S.A.L.*, 23(2), 49-50, Oct. 1955.)

³ *supra*, p. 7

kinds at the disintegration of family life, the superficiality of much modern living,¹ the prevailing disease of pococurantism² – all these are well-known to the intelligent observer of the South African scene. All kinds of remedies are proposed, but the malaise is deep-seated. To what extent then is Ralph Shaw's contention relevant, that the library's greatest contribution "will be in facilitating and speeding up the re-education of millions of people into the intellectual pursuits that they will have to follow" – not to make automation "possible", but to make civilized life tolerable in South Africa? How is this to be done? There is no easy solution.

* * *

Ten years ago, Mr. Freer allowed himself a peep into the future. In the same spirit one can discern certain tendencies to come – none of them (in my view) predestined, most of them in our power to control. Firstly,

¹ Cp. the function of the library as „'n vesting teen die vervlakking" – a bastion against superficiality – in Prof. W.E.G. Louw's „Taak en funksie van die biblioteek in die samelewing" (*S.A.L.*, 23(3), 68-76, Jan. 1956).

² Pococurantism [O.E.D. It. f. *poco*, little +

the book will remain to all intents and purposes the major means of communicating thought and knowledge. Secondly, we shall be led by the sheer force of circumstance to adapt the form of the book for certain purposes, notably for small editions – this is almost self-evident. But for more popular uses, supplement them as we may by movies, TV, "feelies" and the rest, we abandon the book itself at the cost of whatever measure of civilization we have succeeded in preserving through the ages. In our library schools it is book-content, not gadgetry, that we shall have to teach: otherwise we shall merely have the blind leading the blind – and getting paid for it. But perhaps the too-inventive hand of the nuclear scientist will put an end to all these fancies. And perhaps it will finally be in the all-preserving sands of the South African Karoo³ that the archaeologist of the future will re-discover the buried relics of the Age of Print!

curante, pr. pple of *curare*, to care]: "could'nt-care-less-ism". An occupational disease in Laurence Sterne's time, endemic in ours.

³ Cp. Mr. Freer's proposals for a "Stack in the veld" in his "Libraries and science" (*S.Afr. J. Sci.*, 40: 81-97, Nov. 1943).

NOTES ON OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. H. L. Maple, Deputy Librarian, University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg), was educated at London University, taking his M.A. later at Cape Town, and qualified at the London School of Librarianship. He was Chief Cataloguer at the London School of Economics (1923-28), Assistant Librarian, University of Cape Town (1928-33) and Chief Cataloguer, Fuad I University of Egypt (1933-38), and after further service in British government libraries, returned to Natal in 1947.

Mr. D. H. Varley, Chief Librarian, South African Library, Cape Town since 1938, is a Londoner who took his M.A. degree at Oxford University (history scholar, St. John's College) and qualified at the London School of Librarianship. He served as President of

the S.A. Library Association, 1947-48, and has been Hon. Editor, *South African Libraries*, since 1951. For further details see *Who's who in librarianship*, ed. T. Landau, Cambridge, Bowes, 1954.

Mnr. R. B. Zaaiman is in die Vrystaat gebore en het die B.A.-graad aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch behaal. Hy het biblioteekervaring by die G.A. Fichardt-biblioteek te Bloemfontein, die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, Kaapstad, en die Openbare Biblioteek, Wynberg, opgedoen, voordat hy in 1952 tot die Stadsbiblioteekdiens, Kaapstad, as Administratiewe Hoofassistent (en later as Onderbibliotekaris) aangestel is. Hy is tans die Voor-sitter van die Kaaplandse Tak van die S.-A. Biblioteekvereniging.

THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

by

DEREK A. CLARKE

THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was founded by Royal Charter in 1955, to provide university education for the rapidly developing Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Initially, students will be prepared for the examinations of the University of London, with which the College is in a special relationship. The first degree courses will begin in March, 1957, in the Faculties of Arts (including English, Classics, French, Portuguese, History, Economics, Social Anthropology and Education) and of Science (including Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology); and shortly afterwards a degree course in Agriculture will begin. In addition to the Department of Education, which will provide a post-graduate course of professional training, there has also been established an Institute of Education which will be mainly concerned with research and with services to the existing teaching profession. The initial size of the student body will inevitably be small, particularly as the College is setting an entrance qualification considerably higher than those required elsewhere in Southern Africa; but it is thought that student numbers may ultimately approach 2,000.

Building has begun on the College site of 474 acres, which is oblong in shape, the long side running from east to west. On the northern side is a ridge of high ground, with magnificent views across the city of Salisbury, rising to a high plateau. The teaching buildings will be placed to the west of a high point on this ridge, encircling the College Green; on the high plateau itself, which is the focal point of the whole scheme, will stand the College Library.

The British South Africa Company, and the two principal copper companies, Rhodesian Anglo-American and the Rhodesian Selection Trust, have given £150,000 for the building of the Library. The planning, which began as

soon as the Librarian was appointed in March, 1955, has reached an advanced stage, and the internal arrangement of the rooms has been determined in detail. The external elevations of the building have yet, however, to be approved by the donors and by the College authorities—for the dominating situation of the Library makes it inevitable that great importance will be placed on its outward appearance—and these elevations must ultimately have a decisive influence on the internal lay-out of the Library.

Planning of building

In planning the building the chief principles borne in mind have been flexibility, provision for growth, and self-sufficiency.

Many librarians have found, when they wished to reorganize their libraries, that the existing ground-plan of the building and the limited strength of the foundations prevented any significant change in the use of any part of it; and sometimes the arrangement of the rooms even determined the duties of the library staff. In this Library, however, it is hoped to achieve flexibility by making the building approximately rectangular on a modular plan. All the strength of the building is in the external walls and the floors, which are supported by pillars at regular intervals of 22 ft. 6 ins. Thus it is possible to make the internal walls of very light construction indeed, enabling a reallocation of space to be made if desired. Similarly, all floors throughout the building have been stressed adequately to sustain the weight of book stack; except that it has proved uneconomic to stress the floors of the reading rooms sufficiently to enable them to be subdivided into two 8 ft. stack levels. Thus a radical reorganization of the Library into divisional units would be possible if changed teaching policy made it desirable at a future date. A vertical module of 8 ft. has also been

employed, in order to keep floor levels uniform throughout the building so that trolleys can be used: thus the reading rooms and large administrative rooms are each 16 ft. high, and stack levels and smaller administrative rooms are 8 ft. high.

The building has been planned for an immediate capacity of over 200,000 books and 250 readers. In view of the astonishing rate of growth at present achieved by academic libraries, however, the foundations are being made strong enough to allow of the ultimate addition of another storey, and space has also been reserved for lateral extension.

The meagre technical resources available in Salisbury make it necessary for the Library to be self-sufficient in technical services. The slope on which the Library is built makes necessary a basement on the south front of the building; and this is being adapted to contain a bindery and a photographic studio. From considerations of noise and vibration, the unpacking room and bindery will be placed beneath the stack. The basement also allows for a periodicals stack to be placed immediately below the periodicals reading room.

There are entrances to the Library both on the south and on the east. Entering by either, the reader passes through a turnstile next to the charging desk into the catalogue hall. This is an imposing room, 25 ft. high and 3,000 square feet in area, designed to allow for extensive growth of the catalogue, and lined with bookcases containing bibliographical tools and quick-reference works. Opening out of the catalogue hall are the principal reading room, the periodicals reading room (which has been put close to the main entrance to allow speedy access to journals) and the entrance to the stack. Academic staff and post-graduate students will be admitted to the stack; and tables and chairs will be provided to enable them to work there. The catalogue room has a door opening into the catalogue hall, thus dispensing with any need for an "official catalogue". The administrative wing of the Library, on the north of the catalogue hall, is so designed as to allow for the smooth flow of books through all the technical processes. Provision is made in the administrative wing for the processes which will be required if the Library acquires rights of legal deposit.

On the upper floor is the upper reading

room with stack levels adjacent. Here also are two levels containing carrels and seminar and special collections rooms, joined to the upper reading room by a broad and well-lit exhibition gallery over-looking the catalogue hall.

Catalogues and classification scheme

Exhaustive enquiries which have been carried out in other University Libraries (e.g. University of Pennsylvania, University of California) have shown that in general the academic staff and post-graduate workers require only an author catalogue, as they know the precise work which they wish to consult; but that undergraduates require a subject approach to the Library's collections. The idea of providing a dictionary catalogue, containing both author and subject entries in a single alphabetical sequence was therefore considered; but was rejected, not only because a very large dictionary catalogue, eventually containing more than a million cards, would have too complex an arrangement to be intelligible to the student without guidance, but also on the educational grounds that a systematic subject approach is more useful for University purposes than a specifically topical one.

Two card catalogues are therefore maintained. One is a name catalogue, with entries for authors, editors, translators, etc., and subject-entries for persons: the other is a classified catalogue. Considerable thought has been given to the problem of providing an index to the classified catalogue. The best possible subject approach would seem to be provided by a card index constructed on the chain principle; but this was considered impracticable because of the great bulk of such an index and the labour necessary to maintain it. Another possible solution to this problem would have been to place next to the catalogue a copy of *Sears' List of Subject Headings*, marked with classification numbers: but it was felt that the List was difficult for readers to use, and provided insufficient subdivision of the subjects. Our tentative solution to the problem has been to maintain an index on looseleaf sheets, which can readily be kept up to date.

The classification scheme which has been adopted is that of the Library of Congress.

Certain local adaptations have had to be made, particularly in the sections dealing with Central and Southern Africa, where the tables for geographical subdivision, particularly in the fields of anthropology and administration, have proved inadequate. It is still too early to know the user reaction to the classification scheme: if criticism arises, library policy must surely be to make any necessary reorganizations of the detailed schedules within a main subject, but to avoid any change which would lead to consequential changes elsewhere in the scheme.

The cataloguing rules are basically those of the Anglo-American code. Some changes have, however, been made, especially in the disputed field of the form of entry of corporate bodies.

Bookstock

Library service has been provided in rather inadequate quarters since November, 1955. Until the end of May, 1956, it was necessary strictly to limit book orders because of an acute shortage both of staff and of accommodation; but a basic collection of bibliographical tools was first acquired so that the work of book selection could proceed, and small working collections were quickly built up in each subject in order to allow professors, already appointed, to plan their courses and pursue their own research projects. A considerable number of subscriptions to learned and scientific periodicals has been placed, and visible-record systems have been installed to deal with them. At the same time urgently required research material not yet available in Salisbury is being obtained by loan from other libraries or by photocopies. Conversely, facilities are already being given to persons from outside the College to consult works in the College's collections; in particular, librarians and booksellers are making regular use of the bibliographical reference works. As the findings of perhaps the greater part of current research, particularly in the sciences, are first published in journals rather than in book form, a newly established University Library is particularly dependent on inter-library co-operation for the loan of periodicals, until it itself possesses a large number of titles and back numbers of each. As the Federation is outside the scope of Freer: *Catalogue of Union periodicals*, the nearest recorded loca-

tion of any item is in South Africa; which inevitably leads to delays in obtaining a periodical part required by a reader. Strenuous efforts are therefore being made to collect information about the, sometimes extensive, periodicals holdings of special libraries in the Salisbury area: and in some cases librarians are being good enough to provide lists of their own holdings. Perhaps the greatest immediate need of libraries in the Federation is for a union list of periodicals: and it is to be hoped that something will be done to provide this before long. At the end of May, 1956, the Library moved into temporary quarters in the Faculty of Arts building, which will provide space for about 12,000 books and a dozen readers. Further accommodation, both for books and for readers, will however be required long before the opening of the permanent Library building. Additional staff for the supervision of further rooms will not be available, so that the temporary institution of a closed reserve stack will be inevitable. As all books at present being purchased are *ex hypothesi* those likely to be in the greatest demand, the selection of particular categories of books for relegation to the reserve stack will present an interesting problem.

In book selection there is a double task. It is necessary to provide the books (other than prescribed texts) to which the student will need to refer during his course, and also to provide the more specialized material needed for the research programmes of post-graduate students and the academic staff. At the same time, the lack of any adequate general library in the Salisbury area makes it necessary to build up background collections in all the subjects which are not yet taught in the College, so that the College Library can from the beginning cover all fields of interest. In the first years of the College's existence particular importance will be placed on building up adequate collections for the private study of subjects (such as philosophy and religion) in which the College cannot yet provide formal teaching.

Gifts and Collections

The Library has received many gifts, and is particularly indebted to other libraries which have given generously from their lists of exchange material without hope of any immediate return.

On the initiative of the Governor-General of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland a world-wide appeal for books for the Library is being addressed to Rotary Clubs throughout the world. Each Club is being asked to provide a particular work. It is, however, too early yet to judge the success of the scheme.

Two notable gifts deserve special mention. Mr. W. C. Little of Lusaka has presented his

almost exhaustive collection of works on the history and geography of Eastern and Central Africa, and the Library has also received the notable collection of the Rev. J. L. Othenius of Bulawayo dealing with the linguistics and ethnography of Southern Rhodesia. As a result of those gifts the Library finds itself unexpectedly well equipped to support the field of African studies.

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the University of Cape Town Library was suitably celebrated during May, 1956. A well-attended reception was arranged in the Reading Room of the Jagger Library on the evening of 3rd. May, with extensive displays of items from the Library's collections, and a concert of chamber music was given from the gallery of the Reading Room by members of the S.A. College of Music. To commemorate the occasion, the Librarian (Mr. R. F. M. Immelman) compiled a historical brochure: *The Library of the University of Cape Town, 1829-1955*, which we hope to review in the next number of *S.A.L.*

In connection with these celebrations, a series of late afternoon talks was arranged at the Medical Library, the speaker being the visiting professor of American literature, Professor J. J. Firebaugh, whose lectures to University and other audiences throughout the Union have been giving so much pleasure. His theme in this case was *The American Book Scene*: publishing, bookselling, the periodical press, and cognate subjects. These talks were enjoyed both by members of the library profession and by the general public.

Van die S.-A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns het ons 'n keurlys van Afrikaanse boeke van 1955 ontvang, wat geskik is vir aanskaffing deur biblioteke, voorskryf op skool, e.s.m. Eksemplare van hierdie lys kan by die Sekretaris van die Akademie, Engelenburg-huis, Hamiltonstraat, Pretoria, verkry word.

A useful list of publications on printing and publishing to be found in the Library and Information Division of the C.S.I.R.,

Pretoria, has been issued recently. A feature of the list are the full descriptive annotations, and entries are included on related subjects such as copyright and printing inks. This is a handy check-list and practical guide.

Books for all is the title of a new Unesco publication (102 pp., 1956) in which Mr. R. E. Barker has made a study of many aspects of the international book trade. The Foreword states that "although modern publishing and communication techniques have made it possible for everyone to enjoy ready access to books, these potentialities are far from being realized. A dearth of printing and publishing facilities in large areas of the world, coupled with a maze of obstacles at national frontiers, impedes the full production and free circulation of books". The more important difficulties, from tariff and currency restrictions to inadequate copyright protection and high transport costs, are skilfully dealt with, and this publication is especially valuable for its wealth of statistical material, hitherto difficult to find in one place, and for some striking pictographic charts in colour.

„Aan die opvoedkundige biblioteekfront” is die titel van 'n belangwekkende artikel wat in die eerste nommer van die *Bulletin* van die Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Maart, 1956) deur mev. E. C. Groenewald, geskryf is. Die artikel bespreek die ontstaan, samestelling, omvang en funksies van die T.O.D.-Biblioteekdiens, en skets ook kortliks die planne vir die toekoms. Laasgenoemde bevat o.a. die opbou van 'n opvoedkundige museum-argief, en die gereelde publikasie van digesta van opvoedkundige tydskriftektuur vir die gebruik van onderwysers van die Transvaal.

THE LONG STREET BRANCH LIBRARY, CAPE TOWN

by

B. G. Hood

City Librarian, Cape Town City Library Service

THIS MODERN branch library with a floor area of just over 4,000 square feet is situated on the first floor of a new commercial building on the corner of Long and Longmarket Streets in Cape Town and was opened by the Mayor of Cape Town (Councillor P. J. Wolmarans) on March 6th, 1956. The premises were leased in order to alleviate some of the pressure on the Central Branch Library in the South African Library building. In addition, the Long Street Library is intended to cater for the special needs of business, commerce and industry and thus attempts to fulfil a long felt need in the Cape. The end product has been a multi-purpose library which has a separate children's section, ready reference collections, record-playing room, adult fiction and general collections, and an extensive range of periodicals with full reading facilities.

Planning of the Library

The available floor which naturally conformed with the overall design of the building was planned for library purposes in conjunction with the architects of the building and the Architectural and Works and Buildings Branches of the City Engineer's Department of Cape Town. An immediate obstacle was encountered in the fact that over half the available wall space consisted of windows with low sills. Bookstacks in the middle of the floor were unavoidable and these were designed with five shelves, the bottom two being fixed and the three upper shelves being adjustable. The overall height of these stacks is 5 ft. 2 ins. and this includes a kickboard of 9 ins. which is now a standard in the City Library Service. The bottom shelves are tilted upwards towards the reader. Quarto books instead of being shelved, as in most libraries, at practically ground level are straight in front of the reader. The shelving was built in standard 3 ft. lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch laminated ply supplied by

one of the Union's leading manufacturers and, although the laminated shelving is in theory stronger, there has been some sagging. All shelving in the library was painted by library and departmental staff in high gloss enamels. The island stacks are all on castors and can be wheeled away to clear the library for meeting purposes. The shelving was made by the City Engineer's Department and other furniture and fittings were made by several Cape Town firms.

Decor

Matching colour schemes for walls, linoleum, furniture and shelving were carefully worked out and three colours predominate – sky blue, lilac and sunshine yellow. The furniture is in light coloured Swedish birch and Canadian beech and upholstery is pillar box red. Modern plastic upholstery is tough, durable and easily cleaned; its replacement is not costly and I think it adds both to the comfort and appearance of a library.

Books

The emphasis is on technical and scientific books but there is everything which should be found in a well balanced library collection with, so far, one exception – there is no light fiction, but a reasonably generous selection of about 1,500 works of standard fiction bought according to a list of standard authors prepared by the City Library Service. Afrikaans and Dutch books are separately shelved and the latter collection includes a fair number of Dutch technical works to compensate for the scarceness of those published in Afrikaans. The majority of books are covered in transparent plastic jackets obtained from various sources and many are pre-strengthened for library use.

There is no special place for returned books – these are reshelfed in the normal sequence. All books are, of course, on open access.

Periodicals

About 200 periodicals are currently received, including those in the United States Information Service collection and these are displayed in alphabetical order on specially designed slopes below the windows. Under the slopes are facilities for shelving extensive sets of back numbers of 46 of the periodicals, while a modern periodical display rack holds a large number of the more popular journals.

Newspapers

One small fitting shown in the illustration holds ten newspapers which can be easily lifted and removed to the reading tables by readers.

Sheet music

In the shelving and appropriately opposite the record room is the library's collection of sheet music, which is already extensive. It includes the complete works of Bach and Brahms in the Edwards Music Reprints Series and there have also been large donations of music from private sources. Solo works are bound in the City Library Service bindery and other works by a local commercial firm.

Art prints

A number of art prints may be interchanged in the same frame are on display and it is intended that these and other prints in fixed frames will be available for free lending in July, 1956, on ordinary library cards.

Children's section

This is immediately on the right on entering the building and before reaching the main desk. Shelving is 5 ft. 2 ins. in height and a special fitting for younger children which has been designed in the City Library Service. This consists of a unit 9 ft. long and 4 ft. 8 ins. high. Three -foot long diagonally adjusted shelves display picture books on both sides of a 3 ft. section which has been subdivided into 18 inch sections to provide better shelving stability for slender children's books. Similarly, eighteen inch sections have been used to shelve sheet music. The three tables and twelve children's chairs, as with other fixtures, conform to standard library furniture dimensions as laid down by Wheeler and Githens and others.

Above the fitting for younger children, is a mural, the work of a well-known South African artist, Miss Eleanor Esmonde-White. Familiar figures of children's reading - Jock of the Bushveld, Alice, Robinson Crusoe, Dr. Doolittle, and others - have been imaginatively interpreted in a series of eighteen panels. The emphasis in all fittings has been on mobility and the mural can easily be removed and erected in another building should the occasion arise.

Record room

There is a sound-proof room with shelving for about 5,000 long-playing records. Storage is vertical and arrangement is by makers' numbers rather than the McColvin variation of the Dewey scheme. The room is equipped with a Hi-fi record player and comfortable upholstered foam rubber chairs to match the general decor. There are also a few of these chairs scattered round the main section of the library for "browsers".

The City Council has approved a lending scheme for the records incorporating the following conditions :

- (1) Two records (or sets) per borrower.
- (2) Loan period of three days (excluding days on which the library is closed).
- (3) Deposit of 10s. but no lending charge.
- (4) Borrower must satisfy the librarian that he has up-to-date equipment and a recent needle change.

This scheme is due to come into operation on 2nd July, 1956.

Pegboard display boards

These are, as far as can be ascertained, new to South African libraries and at Long Street there are two portable stands and four fixed boards, the latter being 4 ft. high by 2 ft. 6 ins. wide. Pegboard is an amazingly flexible display medium and it requires no great artistic genius to arrange attractive displays on it. There are several other display boards made of framed half inch insulating masonite.

U.S. Information service library

This has now been transferred to the Long Street Branch and will thus be more readily available to the public of Cape Town in the future.

Use of the library

The new library has been little publicised, although its existence has been brought to the notice of leading industrialists and other firms to which it should prove of use. Word

of mouth is, however, proving effective and there has been a steady and satisfying growth in the use of the library, which seems to be attracting a clientèle which can put its resources to the maximum use.

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

The enterprising organizers of the ASLIB Conference held at Blackpool in 1955 included in their programme an address by Colin Robertson on "Information work of the Crime Writers' Association" which has since been printed in *ASLIB Proceedings*, 7 (4), 269-74, November 1955. Mr. Robertson is Chairman of the Information Panel of the Association, which was formed in 1954 with the aim of "raising the prestige and fortunes of crime writers everywhere". The Panel comprises experts on such subjects as medicine, police procedure, explosives, "all matters relating to electrical installations, whether of a diabolical nature or otherwise", and so forth, and already many crime writers have been able to avoid mistakes which their watchful readers were

only too ready to pick out for them in the past. Elsewhere in this number of the *Proceedings* is an important article by Sir Arthur Elton, Chairman of Film Centre Ltd., on "The film as source material of history"; both these articles are well worth reading.

* *

Librarians who find themselves beset with problems of handling map material will find some useful recommendations in the following article: "The storage and conservation of maps: a report prepared by a committee of the Royal Geographic Society, 1954" (*Geographical Journal*, cxxi (2), 182-89, June 1955).

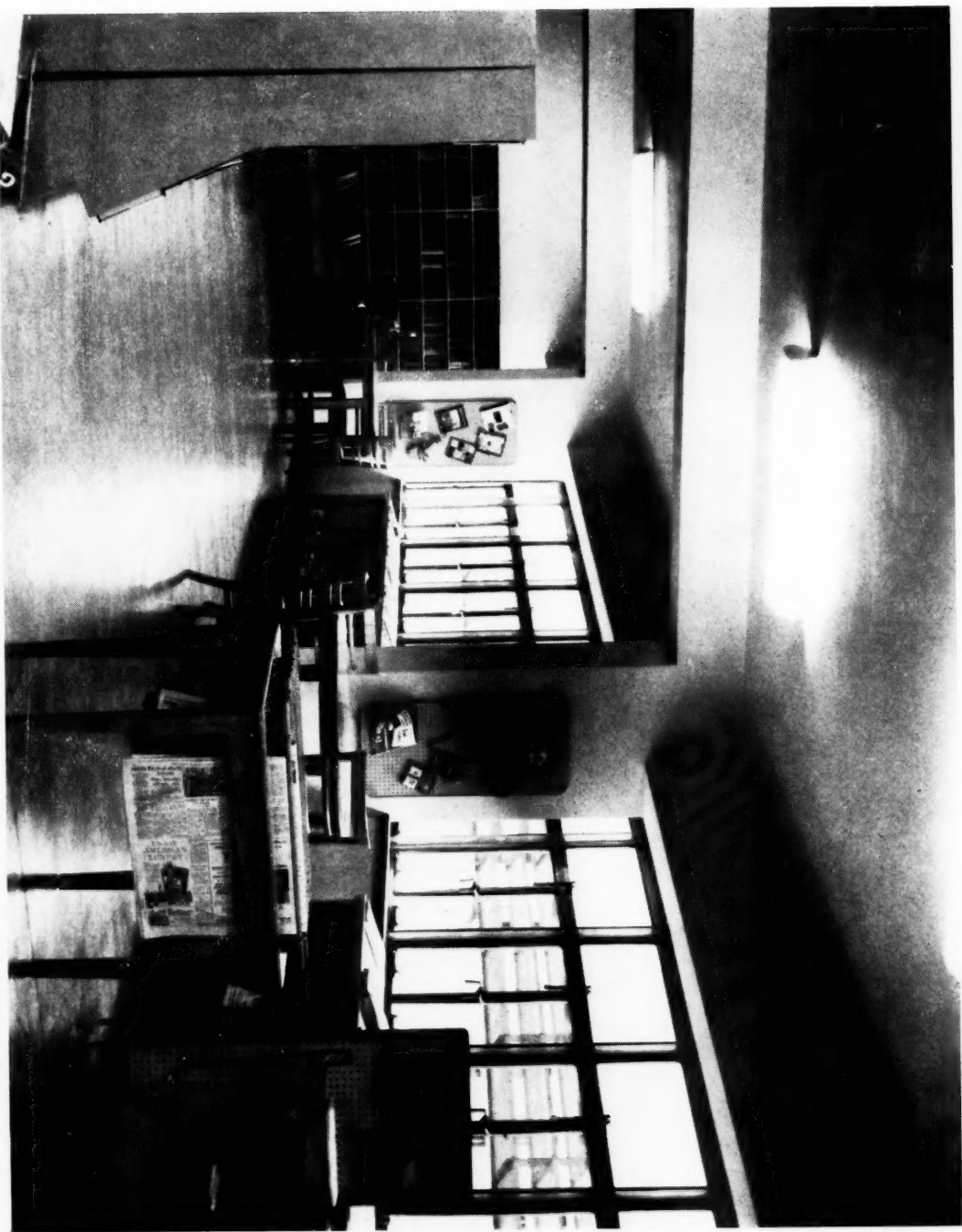
SPECTACLES OR NOT THEY ARE CHARMING

"The movies have perpetrated a cliché about women librarians that is as erroneous as it is damaging in the personnel department. For they suggest that a woman librarian is owl-eyed and awkward, wearing spectacles and an air of gloom. This is just the kind of arrant nonsense that earns Hollywood an Oscar for fatuousness. With more years than we like to count spent in observing both Hollywood and libraries, we can testify as an expert that the ratio of pulchritude and charm in libraries is several cuts above any we ever discovered in the cinema capital. We could of course instance the Folger Library in particular but we do not want any studio scouts around trying to hire our staff. We have a hard enough time keeping others from luring them away.

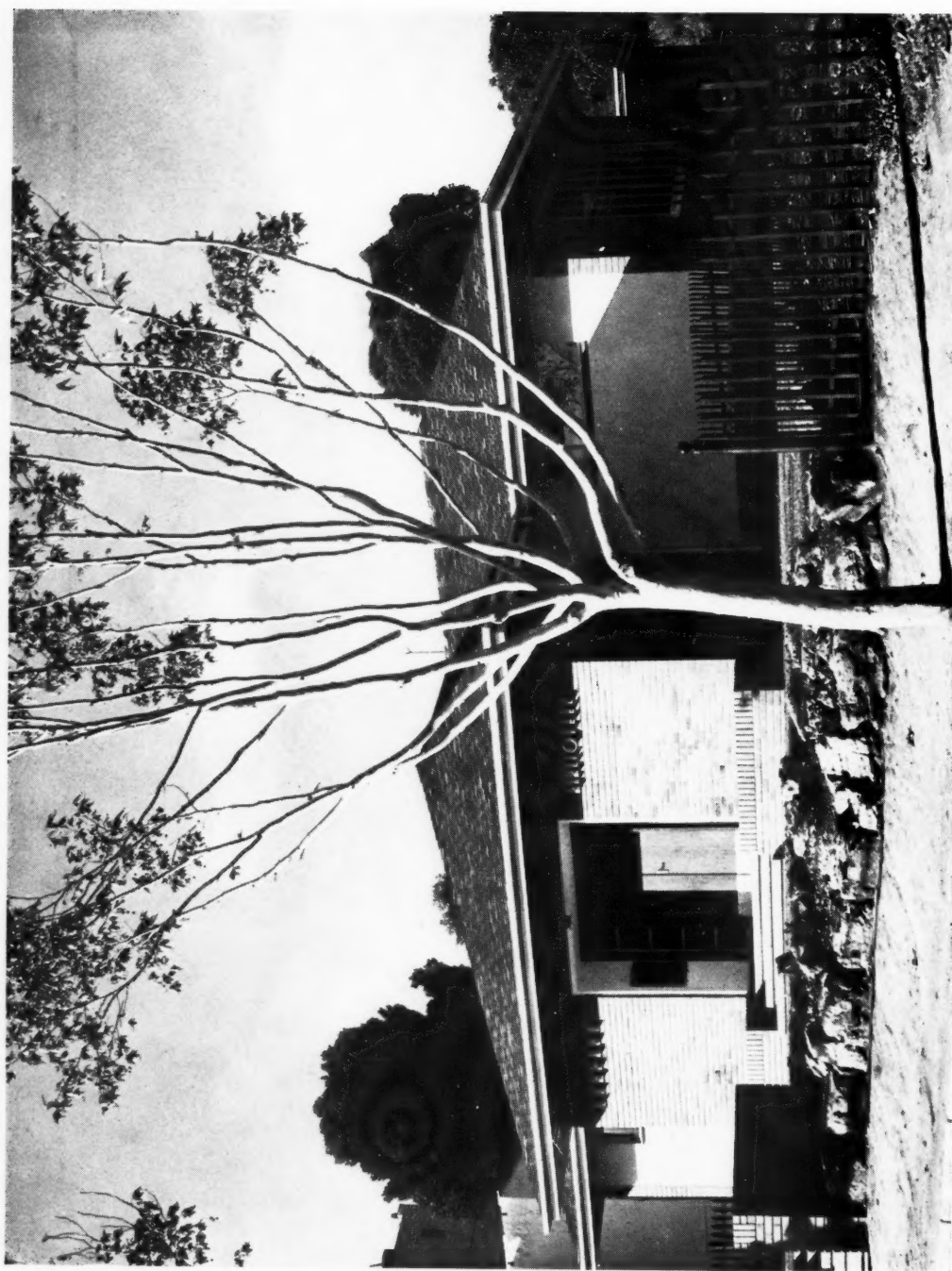
And that is the purpose of this paragraph.

If any highly intelligent young woman, graduating this June, would like to apply for a job in the Folger Library, she should write at once to Mrs. Virginia Freund, Executive Secretary, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington 3, D.C., for information. We want someone willing to stay at least two years, someone who has an interest in history, literature, and books, who has a sense of accuracy, who can type competently, and who has a good disposition. If she has those qualities, we feel reasonably certain that she has the charm that comes up to our standard. She need not tell us that she 'just loves Shakespeare.' We would much prefer for her to know how to spell."

From "Report from the Folgor Library" March 1, 1956 Vol. 5, no. 3, p. 10-11.



AN INTERIOR VIEW OF THE LONG STREET BRANCH, CITY LIBRARY SERVICE, CAPE TOWN



ROSEBANK BRANCH, JOHANNESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

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THE ROSEBANK BRANCH LIBRARY, JOHANNESBURG

THE NEW branch library of the Johannesburg Public Library at Rosebank was opened by the Mayor of Johannesburg on March 1st, 1956. Designed and built by the Johannesburg City Engineer's Department at a cost of £10,000, it stands upon an excellent open site on fairly high ground, within the bounds of a small, grassy park shaded by tall poplars. On one side its wide windows, a specially attractive feature of the building, overlook trees and shrubs, on the other, the windows frame a lovely view that reaches far out to the distant hills. Its own small garden of lawn, bordered with crazy paving and flower beds, immediately surrounds the building. The building itself, as can be seen from the accompanying photograph, is neat, compact and serviceable, yet attractive to the eye with the deep, cosy eaves of the slate roof, its warm brick, and its pale green rough-cast walls, woodwork and guttering.

When the double wooden doors are opened one looks across the small entrance lobby directly into the main part of the library through a wide plate-glass screen, an unusual and most attractive feature which adds considerably to the special charm and atmosphere of the interior – its lightness, brightness and airiness. Indeed the library is so fresh and luminous within that the excellent fluorescent lighting is redundant on a sunny day. The lobby itself has notice boards at each end, a wall seat on each side of the big door and two decorative maps, one of which is of Johannesburg. "In" and "out" entrances lead from the lobby into the main library.

Another decorative detail is the wall on which the plate-glass screen is mounted. It is built of special black bricks, the white mortar between which forms a striking rectangular pattern. The walls of the issue desk, which are of course visible from the lobby, repeat the pattern within the main hall of the library.

After passing through the "in" entrance from the lobby the reader sees the whole of the library with its two shallow wings branching from the main hall lying before him. The wing on the left contains the children's corner, with its ten tiers of kiaat shelves along two walls and its tables and chairs in the centre.

The whole wing is dominated by another attractive architectural detail which meant sacrificing shelving space, it is true, but which gives the library its unique charm. The length of the side wall is almost entirely filled with one enormous window, with a comfortable window seat below it.

Moving out of the children's section into the main leg of the "T", past the issue desk which stands in the most central position, one comes to the lending stock, which is stacked on wall shelves and in island cases – arranged so that tiers of fiction alternate with tiers of non-fiction. The right wing, with its large window overlooking the park and the distant view, contains the Reference collection, the Afrikaans and foreign sections and the set of Penguin books. Here again are tables and chairs for the comfort of the reader and a long window-seat.

All the shelves and the square issue desk are made of kiaat. The walls are of the same delicate green that was used for the outside walls. A few framed decorative maps adorn the walls above the shelves.

At the far end of the lending section a short passage, from which open off the staff rest-room, two cloakrooms and a kitchenette, leads into what will eventually be a stackroom, but which in the meantime is housing a children's clinic.

The library is run by a staff of six, consisting of a Librarian, an Intermediate, a graduate Professional Assistant and three clerical assistants. From Mondays to Fridays, excepting Wednesdays, the library is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. On Wednesdays it is closed in the afternoons. The hours on Saturday are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Johannesburg Public Library is particularly proud of the Rosebank Library, for although there are now eight European branches, excluding the hospital services and the travelling library, this is only the third European branch to be housed in its own building, specially designed and built for the purpose. Other branches are using hired premises. From 1939 onwards the Travelling Library served this area, calling once a week and it was soon discovered that Rosebank was an extremely

good reading area. Despite this foreknowledge however, the tremendous circulation, after a mere two months, exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. Not counting those members who transferred their tickets from the Central Lending Library and the Travelling Library, 1,529 adults and 720 children had joined the library for the first time by the end of the second month. The large number of children was another pleasant surprise. The most impressive figures, however, come from the issue, for the Rosebank Library is breaking all branch records. In one week alone, ending on the 14th April, 5,358 books were issued, of which 1,200 were non-fiction, and 1,400 juvenile. The annual issue will probably exceed the quarter million mark.

Knowledge of the reading habits of the area during the days of the Travelling Library was of great assistance in the building-up of the book stock. The lending stock of fiction and readable non-fiction was gathered over a period of five years – from the year ending in June 1951 to early 1956. It should be noted that the more abstruse non-fiction is not bought for a branch, but is readily obtainable through the Branch Librarian from the Central Lending Library. If the latter does not have the book, every effort is made to buy it and thus satisfy the reader. Branch libraries may of course draw upon the stock of any other of the lending sections. In Rosebank the number of bespeaks handled during a month amounts to an average of about 336.

At the moment of writing there are about 9,000 books on the shelves at Rosebank and about 7,200 books on loan. This will give some

idea of the size of the stock. The stock grows rapidly too, for Rosebank's eagerness for books, and the unexpectedly enormous circulation means that Rosebank must get special attention for some time to come when books are being allocated.

Foreknowledge of reading tastes also led to the decision to give Rosebank a better Reference section than is usual in a branch library. Ninety-five per cent of this stock was bought locally in the two months before the branch was opened so that the section would be completely up-to-date. The children's section too, is unusually good for a branch library.

One small section of the lending stock – Penguin publications – has aroused much interest. The success of the first experiment with Penguins at the busy Hillbrow branch led to the provision of a full set of Penguins at Rosebank. These provide quite a library in themselves. They are not stocked or catalogued; they are just given a charging number and a charging card. As they wear out they are re-ordered by number. They do about an average of six issues before being reinforced with strips of mending tape when they do another ten or twelve issues. They are economical because there is no clerical labour spent on accessioning and withdrawing. All branches are now being provided with sets of Penguins in this manner.

The success of the Rosebank Branch has given the library a great stimulus in Johannesburg and it should be easy to persuade the Council to provide capital for another new-built branch in 1956-57.

(Contributed)

LIBRARY CONFERENCE, 1956

The 11th Annual Conference of the S.A. Library Association will be held this year at Durban, from 24th to 27th September. The theme of the Conference is to be: Standards in South African Library Service; and apart from papers on particular applications of this theme, there will be plenty of opportunity for discussion from the floor. The Conference will be opened at the City Hall by the Administrator of Natal, the Hon. D. G. Shepstone, and after the delivery of Dr. van der Riet's Presidential Address there will be a talk by the guest speaker, Professor G. H. Durrant,

whose excellent address at the Pietermaritzburg Conference in 1951 was so widely appreciated. The University and Special Libraries Section will meet in Howard College, and on the evening of the 25th September delegates will have the opportunity of hearing Mr. J. W. Perry's inaugural lecture as Librarian of the University of Natal. The programme contains something of interest for all types of librarian, and the Conference promises to be one of the best so far held. For further particulars, write to the Hon. Secretary, S.A. Library Association, 181, East Avenue, Pretoria.

LIBRARIES FOR THE MASSES

by

H. L. MAPLE

(Based on a perusal of *"Die sowjetische Massenbibliothek: zwei Beiträge"*,
by W. N. Denisjew. Leipzig, 1954)

THE ZENTRALINSTITUT FÜR BIBLIOTHEKSWESSEN in Berlin recommends this manual of Soviet library practice to the attention of East German librarians with the caution that social conditions and traditional library facilities differ in Eastern Germany and the U.S.S.R.

The library system of the Soviet Union is the fruit of a noble resolution which implied a gigantic task. At the All-Russian Congress for Adult Education on May 6th, 1919, Lenin said: "We must take measures for the creation of a network of libraries which will enable the people to make use of every available book." In 1914 there were 12,600 popular libraries in Russia, with a total stock of 8,900,000 volumes. By 1939 there were 86,266 libraries, containing a total of 166,728,000 volumes. The German invaders destroyed libraries and more than a hundred million volumes but by 1950 both libraries and their contents had been replaced.

The libraries of the Soviet Union form the largest state-organized library system in the world. The great national libraries in Leningrad and Moscow, academic and technical libraries, and central public libraries (copyright libraries) in each constituent republic are static magazines of printed knowledge. The true libraries for the masses, the regional, town, district, village and children's libraries strive actively for the cultural uplift of the average citizen. Collective farm communities and trade-unions have their own libraries not directly under state supervision.

The national library network is under the direction of the Central Committee for Institutions of Cultural Enlightenment. This body is responsible for general administration, the training of librarians, and the provision of a central reserve of books.

The Soviet administrative district (the "raion") forms a typical political and social unit. It possesses a central library which provides for its own readers and at the same time nourishes local libraries identified with cul-

tural activities, e.g. the school libraries, teachers' library, training college library, and medical school, agricultural institute, trade-union, factory and industrial libraries. It also circulates books and other literary matter to village, club, and collective farm libraries and sends out travelling libraries and mobile book vans.

Precise duties are imposed upon these popular libraries. Their most important functions are "the propagation of the principles of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, the education of the communistic conscience of the masses by means of books, periodicals and newspapers, the publicising of the ordinances of the Party and Government, collaboration in the economic and cultural progress of the community, and helping the people to acquire knowledge in the fields of technics, literature and art". Literature and art are thus definitely in the lowest category of importance. The purpose of school libraries is, however, somewhat less humdrum "to widen the outlook of the pupil, to inculcate in him high moral qualities and aesthetic feeling and to teach him to use, love, and respect books".

The librarian must see to it that these functions are duly performed. He must remember that books are not only weapons of culture, enlightenment, political agitation and propaganda: they are also the portable property of the state, with a high material value, and he is responsible for their safe-keeping.

The Soviet librarian, the genius loci, is indeed crushed between the upper millstone of state regimentation and the nether millstone of criticism and badgering by organized readers. Of the 290 pages of this manual, 40 are devoted to reproductions of the forms, reports, requisitions and returns which the librarian is required constantly to complete and return to his superiors. Of these the greatest stumbling block is the "Kollektor", the government bookseller to whom requests for new books must be sent. He has a reputation

for persistently sending the wrong books to the wrong libraries.

The minimum staff, for a library of 6,000 volumes, consists of a director, a librarian, and a charwoman. From this it would appear that the social and professional status of the Soviet librarian is about the equivalent, in another civilization, of that of Dickens' "active and intelligent beadle". Perhaps the beadle could exert more authority and show more initiative. The Soviet librarian has a thorough training in library science and in the political and sociological ideology of the state. The books he orders emanate from state publishing institutes and approved authors and are chosen with the help of state-sponsored booklists and reviews. Time is the only factor which can affect the soundness of his book-selection. Each library is compelled to subscribe to a fixed quota of newspapers and journals published by the state. Where all is officially perfect no question of library censorship can arise. The Kollektor alone can perform the part of Poltergeist. By switching a parcel of books he can throw a whole local network out of gear.

The librarian's nether mill-stone is provided by his readers. He must arrange book-talks and lectures in every local cultural and industrial organization, he must enrol his regular readers into committees which will criticize his annual reports, his efforts at library propaganda and his failure to deal effectively with the Kollektor. The librarian must have read several times the most important books in each field and be able to give an expert opinion on many others. This is a normal requirement specially important to a librarian who must be an authority on cultural matters in a community more or less isolated and self-contained. The picture becomes more problematic when it is considered that the first books placed in any Soviet popular library are "the immortal works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin".

The expulsion of the works of Stalin, now fallen from immortality, will present a formidable feat of discarding: up to 1950, 570, 200, 000 copies of these, in 101 languages, had been published.

Although every Soviet citizen is entitled to borrow from the public libraries and to enjoy their facilities it is difficult to imagine a dear old Russian lady either asking for or receiving

something light and romantic to read over the week-end. The state cannot conceive of its admirers reading for pleasure or relaxation.

It has often been shown that nothing is more repellent to average extra-Russian adults than to find adult education attached like the Old Man of the Sea to their public libraries. When such attachment is made compulsory we may say of the state as Pope said of Dulness:

Here pleas'd behold her mighty wings out-spread

To hatch a new Saturnian age of lead.

The Soviet policy of encouraging the development of libraries for the masses has indeed had what may be called advisedly "mammoth" results. The mammoth was a huge beast of small intellect. A sign of this lack of intelligence in library organization is the confession that the Decimal classification was adopted from expediency because it was not possible to work out in a short time a Soviet classification based on Marxist-Leninistic theory. Dewey's shortcomings were in Russia attributed to his "bourgeoise Weltanschauung". Nevertheless his classification, with Soviet modifications (mostly re-grouping) has served for so many years that re-classification will be extremely difficult. The new classification which is being elaborated will be a means of raising the work of libraries to a higher "ideell-politisches Niveau". Meanwhile, over the same period, members of the despised and retarded bourgeois society have invented or perfected at least three important systems of classification (Colon, Bliss, and U.D.C.). For a long time cataloguing was treated with similar neglect or ignorance in Russia. It was then found that author and subject catalogues could be made useful instruments of propaganda instead of mere inventories for the use of the librarian and the inspector.

The Soviet librarian is obviously a hard-working functionary without the power or perhaps the desire to devote initiative or imagination to the exercise of his profession. He has eliminated Dewey's 200 class or dissolved it in a witches' brew made up of 300 and 900. Somehow this sacrifice to a materialistic ideology has deprived him of the librarian's privilege of being a torchbearer in the march of progress and humanity.

AFRIKAANSE LITERATUUR VAN DIE EERSTE KWARTAAL VAN 1956

deur

D. L. EHLERS

ONDERSTAANDE WERKE wat gedurende die eerste kwartaal van 1956 verskyn het, verdien myns insiens besondere vermelding. Ruimte en tyd laat my nie toe om op die meriete van die sowat twintig ontspannings- en liefdesverhale wat ook gedurende hierdie periode die lig gesien het, in te gaan nie, maar my indruk van die meeste van hulle is dat hulle heeltemal onskuldig is en niemand veel goed of kwaad sal doen nie.

Letterkunde

Antonissen, R. *Afrikaanse letterkunde van die aanvang tot die hede.* H.A.U.M.

'n Deeglike oorsig van die Afrikaanse letterkunde vanaf die tyd van Jan van Riebeeck tot 1954. In kronologiese volgorde word al die letterkundige genres naas mekaar behandel. Beknopte karakteristieke word van alle skrywers wat maar enigszins van belang is, gegee. Uit die aard van die saak, kon die skrywer homself nie die ruimte gun om al sy bewerings te staaf nie, maar hy probeer vergoed daarvoor deur uitvoerige verwysings na bronne waar meer besonderhede beskikbaar is. 'n Baie nuttige werk dus wat terselfdertyd 'n herwaarderling van etlike van die ouer skrywers bevat.

Eitemal. *So praat die ou rivier.* Nas. bkhd.

Gebaseer op 'n drama van Hebbel wat die skrywer voornemens was om te vertaal, maar toe besluit het om liever 'n nuwe drama te skryf. Die Nasionale Toneelorganisasie het reeds 'n geslaagde toer met hierdie drama agter die rug en dit moet dus verwelkom word as 'n toevoeging tot die skrale Afrikaanse dramaliteratuur.

Kromhout, J. *Digterstemme.* Van Schaik.

Die skrywer sê dat hy hierdie bloemlesing van Afrikaanse gedigte opgestel het veral met die oog op die behoeftes van Engelssprekendes. Die feit dat daar enkele gedigte in die bundel

opgeneem is wat nog nie voorheen in boekvorm beskikbaar was nie, verdien vermelding.

Langenhoven, C. J. *Essays.* Nas. bkhd.

Die essays wat verspreid voorkom in Langenhoven se versamelde werke, word hier in handige formaat byeengebring en van 'n inleiding voorsien deur L. C. Bruwer. Dis 'n welkome kompilasie aangesien dit veral in sy essays is dat 'n mens die briljante gevatheid van Langenhoven op sy beste aantref.

Leroux, E. *Die eerste lewe van Colet.* Culemborg.

Op die gebied van prosa is dit sekerlik die uitstaande boek van die tydperk onder bespreking. Die waarde van die werk lê nie so seer in die kunshalte daarvan nie – dit is nog geen voldrae kunswerk nie – as in die frisse lewensbenadering. Die skrywer laat 'n mens onwillekeurig aan die jonger James Joyce en Virginia Woolf dink en alhoewel sy werk nog mank gaan aan jeuggebreke is dit nogtans 'n welkome nuwe klank in die Afrikaanse prosliteratuur.

Louw, W. E. G. *Bybels en Babels.* Nas. bkhd.

'n Welkome verbreking van 'n digterlike stilswye van bykans twaalf jaar. Intussen het die digter veel gewen aan warme menslikheid en nog 'n uitstaande bydrae gelewer tot die Afrikaanse poësie wat reeds op 'n hoë peil staan.

Malherbe, D. F. *Die Fariseër.* Nas. bkhd.

'n Bybelse versdrama wat afspeel in die tyd van Christus se omwandeling op aarde. Hoe die stuk op die verhoog sal vaar, sal slegs die tyd ons kan leer.

Malherbe, D. F. *Rooiland.* Afrikaanse pers.

Gemeet aan die standaard van die skrywer se beste romans, skiet hierdie jongste verhaal van hom heelwat te kort. Nogtans moet mens dit verwelkom dat die skrywer nog onvermoeid

voortgaan om skeppende werk te lewer veral in hierdie tyd van 'n skaarste aan goeie verhale.

Mare, L. *Togwaens*. Afrikaanse pers.

Elke kenner van die Afrikaanse prosa sal nog met genot teruggink aan hierdie skrywer se geslaagde *Nuwejaarsfees op Palmietfontein*, 1918. Persoonlik voel ek dat die kortverhaal en skets by uitstek hierdie skrywer se *forte* is. Hierdie roman oor die transportryers is te onnodig omslagtig. Dit is wel 'n dankbare onderwerp, maar m.i. moet die roman oor die avonture van die transportryers nog geskryf word.

Geskiedenis

De Waal, P. *Die held van die oerwoud*. Bloemfontein, Sentrale pers.

'n Uiters leesbare boek oor die avontuurlike lewe van Willie de Beer, Afrikanerpionier en grootwildjagter van Tanganjika. Ek is daar seker van dat die beskeie oom Willie beswaar sou gemaak het teen die heroïese titel van hierdie boek.

Oberholster, J. A. S. *Murraysburg honderd jaar oud*. Murraysburg, N. G. Kerkraad.

Dit is een van die beste voorbeelde van die plaaslike geskiedenis wat van tyd tot tyd verskyn, gewoonlik op inisiatief van die plaaslike N. G. gemeente maar wat dan die geskiedenis van die hele dorp en distrik omvat. Hulle bevat gegewens wat nêrens anders in boekvorm aangetref word nie. Ek voel sterk dat beide navorsings en openbare biblioteke hierdie soort publikasie moet ondersteun. Ons kan nooit te veel van hulle soort hê nie.

Prinsloo, A. *Die geskiedenis van Smithfield en die Caledonrivierdistrik (1819-1952)*. Bloemfontein, N. G. Sendingpers.

'n Lywige relaas, hoofsaaklik kronologies, van gebeurtenisse in hierdie deel van die Vrystaat. Die werk bevat miskien te veel besonderhede om maklik leesbaar te wees, maar nogtans is dit 'n waardevolle feite-kompilasie.

Uys, C. J. *Paul Kruger van die wieg tot die graf*. Balkema.

Hierdie aantreklike boekie is die resultaat van oorspronklike navorsing veral in verband met die juiste geboorteplek van die president. Die skrywer se geskiedkundige speurwerk in

dié verband lees onderhoudend. 'n Skerp soeklig word ook gewerp op die moeder van Paul Kruger en sodoende word hulde gebring aan 'n waardige vrouefiguur wat in die verlede nog nie die aandag gekry het wat haar toekom nie.

Walton, J. *Vroeë plase en nedersettings in die O.V.S.* Balkema.

Net soos met sy vorige werke in Engels, bewys die skrywer ook hier ons volk 'n onskatbare diens deur sy opdieping en teboekstelling van hierdie waardevolle kultuurhistoriese gegewens.

Godsdiens en etiek

Dreyer, P. S. *Geboorte, huwelik, dood*. Ned. Herv. Weeshuispers, Krugersdorp.

'n Onomwonde behandeling van die hoofmomente in elke mens se lewe vanuit 'n gesonde Christelike standpunt. Die skrywer pleit o.a. vir groter gesinne en wys daarop dat kinderlose gesinne in baie gevalle 'n simptoom van uiterste selfsugtigheid is.

Greyling, E. *Die Sondagskool van die Gefedereerde N. G. kerke in Suid-Afrika*. Bloemfontein, Sondagskool-bkhd.

'n Omvattende gesaghebbende werk oor die onderwerp. Terselfdertyd is dit ook 'n handboek oor metodes waarop onderrig in die Sondagskool gegee moet word.

Kotzé, J. C. G. *Jukgenote met Christus*. N. G. Kerk-uitgewers.

Die skrywer voel dat daar deesdae by baie gelowiges 'n behoefte bestaan om nouer saamgesnoer te lewe en te werk. Hy bepleit intensiewe groeppvorming van gelowiges ten einde 'n meer intieme en produktiewe gemeenskap te bewerkstellig.

Olivier, J. S. *Gedrag, gewoontes, maniere*. Voortrekkerpers.

'n Praktiese boekie gerig tot Afrikanerseuns en -dogters. Dit is bedoel as 'n geskenkboekie wat deur ouers en onderwysers aan kinders gegee kan word.

Van Heerde, G. L. *Die dag van kleine dinge*. N. G. Kerk-uitgewers.

Op onderhoudende wyse vertel 'n voor-malige Algemene Sendingsekreteraris van die

N. G. kerk van die ontstaan en groei van die buitelandse sendingwerk van sykerk – iets waarvan baie mense seker nie genoeg weet nie.

Huishoudkunde

Davidtsz, M. J. *Jess Davidtsz se kookboek* Pretoria, Die skryfster.

'n Deeglike en omvattende moderne kookboek deur Professor Davidtsz, een van ons land se mees vooraanstaande huishoudkundiges. Die waarde van haar werk word verhoog deur talryke illustrasies en kleurplate.

Picken, M. B. *Die Singer-naaldwerkboek.* Nas. bkhd. en McGraw-Hill.

Hier is nou vir die eerste keer 'n uitstekende naaldwerkboek in Afrikaans met pragtige kleurplate en illustrasies. Eintlik is dit veel meer as 'n blote naaldwerkboek want daar word ook heelwat uitgewei oor binnenshuisversiering oor die algemeen. Dit is 'n werk waarmee die uitgewers werklik geluk gewens kan word.

Sport

Barnard, W. *Amper krieketkampioene.* Nas. bkhd.

Die eerste boek oor krieket in Afrikaans deur die Afrikaanse radiokommentator wat die suksesvolle toer van die Suid-Afrikaners in 1955 deur Brittanje meegemaak het. 'n Vlot-geskrewe, lewendige relaas met heelwat goeie aksiefoto's.

Craven, D. H. *Die Leeus keil ons op.* Afrikaanse pers.

Met die toer van die rugbyspan van die Britse eilande deur Suid-Afrika in 1955 nog vars in die geheue van alle rugby-entoesiaste, kry ons nou hier 'n lewendige verslag van al die wedstryde soos alleen 'n deskundige hulle kan sien en ontleed.

Allerlei

Buys, E. *Die triomf van 'n reddingsdaad.* Van Schaik.

Dit is die geskiedenis van die eerste Afrikaanse begrafnisonderneming. Terselfdertyd is dit egter ook die merkwaardige suksesverhaal van H. H. van Rooijen wat op 55-jarige leeftyd as onderwyser bedank en feitlik uit niks uit 'n landswye organisasie opgebou het. Dit is die eerste boek oor so 'n onderwerp in Afrikaans.

Praktiese wenke. H.A.U.M.

Hierdie reeks boekies wil ek ten sterkste aanbeveel. Sover ek kon vasstel, is die inhoud van elkeen deeglik en betroubaar. Tot dusver het die volgende titels verskyn: *Trouplanne, Versorg u skoonheid, Swangerskap en geboorte, Eenvoudige moederkunde, Hoe leer ek my kind gehoorsaamheid en Wat maak ek voor die dokter kom.*

Vertalings

Verskeie ou gunstelingne het nou ook hulle verskyning in Afrikaans gemaak. Aangesien meeste mense reeds met hulle bekend is, noem ek hulle slegs kortliks sonder enige kommentaar:

Carnegie, D. *Openbare redevoering.* Baanbreker-uitgewers.

Gibran, K. *Die profeet.* Van Schaik.

Hunt, J. *Everest oorwin.* Van Schaik.

Marshall, P. *Kennismaking met die Meester.* Internasionale Vertalers.

Laasgenoemde boek is 'n vertaling van *Mr. Jones, meet the Master* en bevat die preke en gebede van die Amerikaanse prediker wat die hooffiguur was in die onlangse suksesfilm, *A man called Peter*.

SOME RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN BOOKS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH

by

R. B. ZAAIMAN

Fiction

Barker, W. R. *Interlude in armour*. Felstar (1955).

A World War II story of a South African armoured regiment. It is flappily told, with a large amount of mere relating set against little action. This is not yet the good South African war novel. There are better diaries and journals, tauter and carrying the taste of immediately observed happenings, lying unpublished among the papers of ex-soldiers. Those we should see in book form.

Dashwood, Winifred. *More geese than swans*. A.P.B.

Light fiction, not too well written, based on the artistic, social and love-life of contemporary Pretoria. It received a £500 prize in the Pretoria Centenary competition.

Swanson, Donald. *Highveld, lowveld and jungle*. C.N.A. (Dassie books).

Three African tales, perhaps a bit stylized, but still an evening's diversion for readers who are prepared to put their tongues in their own cheeks from time to time.

Watson, J. C. *Shadow over the Rand*. C.N.A.

A mysterious, deadly epidemic originates in Johannesburg's Bantu slums and eventually has the whole city in its grip. How do people re-act? The author sees the subject from many angles, with a convincing feel of actual life in many of them. The writing is somewhat diffuse, though, especially towards the latter part of the book.

Race Relations

Bate, H. MacLear. *South Africa without prejudice*. Werner Laurie, 1956. Illus. maps.

An unofficial statement and justification of the South African policy of segregation. It does not avoid the usual pitfalls of racial literature – oversimplification, unverified state-

ments – but is of value as one of the few English publications for the attacked side.

Huddleston, Trevor. *Naught for your comfort*. Collins. 1956. 256 p.

In a problem as many-sided and subjective as the colour question, each opinion expressed should be carefully noted as it may bring to light a perhaps unknown or forgotten facet of the whole. Having worked and lived in shantytowns on the Rand, Father Huddleston has closer knowledge than most European South Africans of those particular conditions and has earned the right to state his candid opinion. His approach – "What I shall try to avoid is that most common and persistent error in all such assessments – the attempt to be impartial" – should be kept in mind when evaluating his book's place, which it certainly has in the literature on the subject.

Useful arts

Meredith, D. ed. *The grasses and pastures of South Africa*. Published for "The grasses and pastures of South Africa book fund". 1955. 771 p. Illus. (some col.) maps, bibliog.

The first part of the volume by Lucy K. A. Chippendall is a guide to the identification of grasses, and is clear even to the beginner. It is the first book in which all the tribes of South African grasses are gathered, and is illustrated by many fine drawings.

The second part deals with pasture management, each chapter written by an expert, and of obvious practical value.

The foreword in this book must be one of the last of General Smuts' to be published.

Sheat, Wilfred G. *Standard garden practice for Southern Africa*. Maskew Miller. 379 p. Illus. (some col.)

The author is the Director of the Parks and Recreation Development in Johannesburg, and his book is correspondingly useful. A

twenty-five page section goes to the flat-dweller and roof-gardener. Useful gardening tables are provided, such as the number of plants which go into an acre at many different spacings. Dr. D. F. Malan wrote the foreword.

Sports

Cheetham, Jack. *I declare.* Timmins. 1956 227 p. Illus.

A detailed description of the matches during the 1955 tour of England by the cricket Springboks, related by the captain of the team.

Duffus, Louis. *Springbok glory.* Longmans Green. 1955. Illus.

South African post-war cricket, on tour and at home. Lively writing by this well-known sports journalist.

Emery, Ira G. *Springboks of the olympiad.* A.P.B. (1956) 156 p. Illus.

The author has been secretary to the South African Olympic Games Association from 1912 to the present time. He writes most entertainingly on the performances and experiences of teams sent to the Olympic Games, and the British Commonwealth Games, since 1908. Lists of athletes who represented South Africa are given.

Goldman, Arthur, comp. *My greatest match.* C.N.A. (1956 ?).

The title is rather misleading, as this is not a book of personal reminiscences. It contains thumbnail sketches of thirteen eminent figures in South African sport, each article packed with quite a lot of information. One outstanding match of each person is described by the compiler in some detail.

Literature

Shepherd, R. H. W. *Bantu literature and life.* Lovedale. 1955. 198 p. ports.

A review of persons, both Bantu and European, who since 1652 contributed significantly to the cultural development of the Bantu. Special attention is given to present-day authors both those writing in the Bantu languages, and those who write in English for the Bantu.

Snyman, J. P. L. *The works of Sarah Gertrude Millin.* C.N.A. 1955. 216 p.

A detailed examination of the status of this authoress. One may not agree with the author's

high opinion – at one stage *King of the Bastards* is compared with *Tristram Shandy* and *Roderick Random* somewhat to the discredit of the latter two – but his discussion throws up much that is interesting and revealing.

Valkhoff, M. *Masterpieces of Old French literature.* Wits. Univ. Press. 1956. 162 p. Illus. (some col.) Bibliography.

Discussion and a précis of the story of "a small number of masterpieces, each of which is representative of a particular genre or movement. The eight works . . . are . . . *La Vie de Saint Alexis*; *La Chanson de Roland*; *Le Charroi de Nîmes*; *Lancelot*; *Le Roman de Renard*; *Le Roman de la Rose*; *Le Grand Testament*; and *La Farce de Maître Pathelin* . . . I have tried in each case to indicate the literary background and so . . . to give some idea of the general trends of literary history in the Medieval period." Recommended for general readers as well as students. The author is head of the Department of Romance Studies at Wits.

History

Kirby, Percival R., ed. *Andrew Smith and Natal; documents relating to the early history of that province.* Van Riebeeck Soc. (Vol. 36) 1955.

In 1832 Dr. Andrew Smith left Grahamstown to visit Dingaan, ostensibly on a scientific research tour, but actually to discover Dingaan's attitude towards trade and missionaries. No official written report was ever made public, but the editor has transcribed notes and journals kept by Dr. Smith, and by means of a commentary links them to other documents on Natal's early history.

Saron, Gustav and Hotz, Louis. *The Jews in South Africa.* O.U.P. 1955. 422 p. Illus.

A detailed history from the earliest days till 1910, with an epilogue covering 1910-55, and a special section devoted to Dr. J. L. Landau, once Chief Rabbi of South Africa. Many interesting new sidelights are offered on the history of South Africa as seen from the standpoint of this group. Who for instance knows that Adam Tas possibly was of Jewish descent, and is it widely appreciated that one of the first conscious writers of Afrikaans, Suasso de Lima, was also Jewish?

Tabler, Edward C. The far interior ; chronicles of pioneering in the Matabele and Mashona countries, 1847-79. Balkema. 1955. 443 p. Illus., maps. bibliog.

From many sources are pieced together the stories of the pioneers who trekked into Rhodesia before the British government became interested in the territory. The maps unfortunately are poor, and there is none showing the exact area treated.

A large part of the book goes to detailed description of the way of life of both pioneers and savages. The last part is given to history, also told in fascinating detail, in which four main figures were involved - Mzilikazi, Robert Moffatt, Thomas Baines and Lobengula. Highly recommended as sourcebook and general reading for students and interested general readers.

Various

Malcolm, D. McK. *A Zulu manual for beginners.* Longmans Green.

The author is a lecturer in Zulu at the University of Natal. The approach to the language is from a functional point of view. The author submits that if an hour a day is put in with his book, the student should be able to

read and write Zulu in an elementary way at the end of a year.

Martienssen, R. D. *The idea of space in Greek architecture, with special reference to the Doric temple and its setting.* Witwatersrand University Press. 1956. 191 p. Plans, illus., bibliog.

The doctoral thesis of this brilliant young architect, who lost his life during World War II. John Fassler, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Wits says: "For architects it will be perennially valuable . . . For the classical scholar it will serve to remind him that while men build to solve practical problems, in times of high civility they also build to enrich their lives."

Mertens, Alice. *Cape Town, Kaapstad, Kapstadt.* Fifty photographs. Balkema.

The photographs are not outstanding but are on the whole adequate, and cover many of the typical features of Cape Town. A large fold-out print gives the magnificent view from the top of Table Mountain. The tri-lingual captions (English, Afrikaans, German) are good. A fair memento.

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